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**Borough of  
Royal Leamington Spa**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1952,

BY

**D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,**  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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**Leamington Spa**

**A. TOMES LTD., PRINTERS, 46, BEDFORD STREET**

**1953**



38, HOLLY WALK,

LEAMINGTON SPA.

October, 1953.

**To the Council of the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa.**

Mr. MAYOR, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my third annual report upon the health of the Borough. The birth and death rates are both a little lower this year than last, and after correction for the age composition of the local group, they compare favourably with the figures for England and Wales. The infant mortality rate at 21.6 per 1,000 live births is lower even than last year and six below the national average. There has again been a small rise in the estimated population. One death occurred of a mother following childbirth, the first time since 1949.

Deaths this year due to diseases of the heart and blood vessels were less in number but these still form the main group of killing diseases having accounted for 40 per cent. of the total deaths recorded. Next in order of importance comes cancer which caused some 20 per cent. of all deaths. Other main groups were vascular disorders of the central nervous system (11.7 per cent.) and non-tuberculous disease of the lungs and respiratory tract (9.8 per cent.). Tuberculosis accounted for less than one per cent. (0.87 per cent.) of all deaths and it is worthy of note that fatalities due to accident or suicide were almost four times as numerous (3.2 per cent.).

On July 16th, 1953 the Royal Sanitary Institute held a Sessional meeting in the Town Hall at which there was a good attendance. After papers had been read and discussed in the morning, the afternoon was devoted to factory visits. On September 25th the Ministry of Food held a Welfare Foods exhibition also in the Town Hall where some lovely and healthy children were brought by their mothers to be photographed.

Much time has been spent in the interviews and inspections concerning the housing allocation scheme. Many persons reside in rooms in the Borough and there are no local byelaws to control the conditions of houses let in lodgings. Thus conditions are often found to be bad and extra points have to be given. After rehousing of the occupants the rooms are often relet without improvement. The larger housing pro-

grammes forthcoming should permit a start upon the re-settlement of many families now living in unfit property. It is likely that the first area to be cleared will be Brook Street which was the subject of a resolution of this Council several years ago. An early start of clearance and demolition is desirable not merely to improve the health and living conditions of the people but also to realise redevelopment plans which will add both to the amenities and the revenues of the town. Probably some 10 per cent. of houses in the town will prove to be beyond economic repair or to require clearance for some other reason such as bad arrangement so that a comprehensive clearance programme will obviously take many years to accomplish. The unfit houses are mostly small and of low rateable value and badly laid out on congested sites so that nothing like the same number of new houses could be built on the same ground. The number of unfit houses is not a true measure of living conditions however as many families live in large houses sub-divided into rooms or so-called flats in such a way that, although the houses themselves either are or could be made fit, the separate dwellings created within their walls are substandard and often lack reasonable amenities. With an eye to the eventual solution of such a problem, powers were obtained in the Leamington Corporation Act of 1952 to treat as a house parts of a building occupied or intended to be occupied as a separate dwelling so far as concerns the provision of closets and food storage accommodation and the scope of Section 9 of the Housing Act 1936 has been extended as regards the repair and/or painting and papering of working class houses.

The expansion of the Borough will bring a need for more water. At present a decision has not been reached whether to bring the quantity needed via a connection to the Coventry mains or to build an impounding reservoir for the waters of the River Leam. This river already supplies substantial quantities of water which after filtration and chlorination are distributed in the town mains.

It is therefore satisfactory to note that the Minister of Housing and Local Government has approved the sewerage scheme prepared by the Warwick Rural District Council for the parish of Radford Semele and has held a public enquiry into the sewerage scheme of the Southam Rural District Council for the parish of Long Itchington. Both of these villages at present cause pollution of the River Leam or its



tributaries though they are by no means the only points of entry of impurities. The condition of the River Leam within the Borough is not such as to cause serious anxiety to the water engineer, since the water works have at all times been able to purify the flow adequately. Nevertheless an improvement in the quality of effluents entering the river or its tributaries at three or more points above your boundaries is most desirable on public health grounds.

Last but not least are the old people of the Borough. In spite of the official and voluntary agencies which exist to help them, there are still some who are living alone in deplorable conditions. These fall mainly into one of two categories

- (a) those who have infirmity or disease such that they are unsuitable for Part III accommodation but are either unable to gain admission to Hospital or unwilling to go there.
- (b) those who have with advancing years tended to withdraw from society and friends into lonely seclusion and finally cease to be able to keep clean and care properly for themselves.

The former are assisted by the district nursing and domestic help services and by voluntary means. The latter present difficult problems as they are seldom open to persuasion or willing to accept the help of existing agencies. Every attempt is made to keep this work upon a human and personal level but from time to time circumstances will arise where there is no alternative but to recommend formal action through the Courts and details of one such case will be found on page 12 of this report.

In conclusion I should like to acknowledge the kindness and support which I have received from members of this Council and to thank many of its officers, in particular the Sanitary Inspectors, for their willing help to me in the discharge of my duties.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF  
THE BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA**

*Medical Officer of Health :*

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.

*Sanitary Inspectors :*

G. H. HAMMOND, M.S.I.A., Cert. for Meat and Food.

A. J. SMITH, M.S.I.A.

W. E. DAVIES, M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

A.R.S.I. Cert. for Meat and other Foods

*Clerical Staff (Part Time).*

S. BUCKLEY.

Miss B. GIBBONS WARD.

*Clerk and Meteorological Observer :*

A. H. STALWORTH

*Disinfector :*

W. JACKSON

*Rodent Operative :*

P. JACKSON

*Public Analyst :*

F. G. D. CHALMERS, M.A., B.Sc., F.I.C.

## *Borough of Royal Leamington Spa*

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### A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1952	...	...	36,730
Birth Rate (Crude)	...	...	16.4
Birth Rate (Corrected)	...	...	15.7
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	15.0
Death Rate (Crude)	...	...	12.5
Death Rate (corrected)	...	...	11.3
Deaths from Diseases and { From Sepsis	...	...	—
Accidents of Pregnancy and { „ other causes	...	...	1
Child-birth			
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	21.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live			
births	...	...	19.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live			
births	...	...	71.5
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—

*Population.*—An increase of 210 over the estimated figure for 1951.

*Birth Rate.*—This is again below the crude average for recent years but the rate after correction for various factors is a little above that for England and Wales, *viz.* 15.3.

*Death Rate.*—This after correction is the same as that for England and Wales, *viz.* 11.3. The 327 deaths of persons over 65 years are analysed as follows :—

Age at death :	65-75 yrs.	75-85 yrs.	85 and over
	127	140	60

Disease of the heart and circulation accounted for 184 of the total of 601 deaths and cancer was next in order of importance with 91 victims. Then follow two important groups (a) Vascular lesions of nervous system, 54 ; (b) Disease of the lung (including Tuberculosis), 44.

There were 15 deaths due to violence ; 2 from motor accidents, 4 from suicide and 9 from other accidents. Tuberculosis caused 4 and Diabetes 2 deaths respectively. Thirteen infants died below the age of 1 year.

*Infant Mortality.*—Is now lower than the average for the past ten years and also below that for England and Wales, *viz.* 29.6. 9 stillbirths were registered during the year, 7 males and 2 females, a rate of 0.25 per 1,000 population.

Statistics for the past 8 years and also for England and Wales in 1952 will be seen under Table II.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH

*Laboratory Facilities.*—The following examinations were made at the Public Health Laboratory, Coventry during 1952.

	Positive	Negative	Total
SWABS (from throat or nose), examined for Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
DYSENTERY ... ..	—	1	1
TUBERCULOSIS ... ..	—	9	9

It may be noted here that many investigations under the heading of Tuberculosis are carried out annually through the organisation of the local chest clinic and numerous throat swabs and stool cultures for dysentery, etc. are examined in hospital laboratories.

### LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES (WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

*Infant Welfare Centres.*—4, Hamilton Terrace, each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, p.m.; Bowling Club, Lillington, each Monday, p.m. Home Help, Health Visiting, Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery services; local enquiries to Area Health Office, 38, Holly Walk, Leamington Spa ('Phone 2998 and 2999).

*Ambulance facilities.*—The County Council's Ambulance Depot at Lakin Road, Warwick (Telephone No. Warwick 86) serves the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa.

*Hospital services.*—General or maternity cases are admitted to the Warneford or Warwick hospitals; Tuberculosis patients go to Hertford Hill Sanatorium and mental illness is treated at the Central Hospital, Hatton. There is also a Maternity Home at 3, The Butts, Warwick, which receives for confinement some women resident in the Borough of Leamington Spa. Additional beds are available for Tuberculosis patients at Heathcote Hospital, Warwick, and St. Wulstan's Hospital, Malvern.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

*Water.*—The sources of the Town's water were as described for previous years, and can be supplemented to a small extent by supplies from outside the Borough.

1. The water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity, although care has been necessary to avoid the waste of water. The water from all sources is hard in nature, although the Leicester Lane well yields a water of some 25 parts hardness only.

2. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are made monthly of the well waters and weekly of the raw and filtered river water.

3. The water is not excessively plumbo-solvent and no special precautions are taken against this.

4. Chlorination plants are installed at all sources of supply. They have operated satisfactorily and no contamination has been reported.

5. The bulk of the population has piped water available within their houses though it will be realized that many persons who live in rooms have a shared supply. There are still 49 standpipes existing in the Borough which are known to supply 196 houses and serve an estimated population of 784 persons. Piped supplies serve approximately 8,913 houses in the borough having an estimated occupancy of 34,868 persons. These figures do not include shops and places of business with parts let off as dwelling houses.

## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF RIVER WATERS

Results expressed in parts per 100,000

(September, 1952)

	<i>Unfiltered River Water</i>	<i>Filtered River Water</i>
Free and Saline Ammonia ...	0.0030	0.0010
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.0320	0.0176
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	3.75	3.3
Nitrogen in Nitrates } Nitrogen in Nitrites }	0.03	0.08
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate at 80° F. in 4 hours ... ..	0.195	0.111
Total Solids driven at 100° C.	87	90

Appearance—U.F.C. ... Slightly turbid few small particles.  
 F.C. ... Bright few small particles.

Hardness	{	Temporary	...	21.2	...	20.3
		Permanent	...	31.8	...	33.2
		Total	...	53.0	...	53.5

Free Chlorine ... — ... —

Metals ... Absent ... Absent

Conditions of Filtration Plant—

Time and date of sample : 11 a.m., 17th Sept., 1952.

Position at which taken : Filter House.

Rate of Filtration : 20,000 g.p.h.

Alumina Dose : 2.55 g.p.h.

Whether or not dosed with chlorine before settling : Yes  
 0.85 lbs. per. hr.

Chlorine dose after filtration : Nil lbs. p.h.

Residual chlorine after 20 minutes : 0.40 p.p.m.

Remarks : Good.

Alkalinity as CO <sub>3</sub>	...	...	13.16	...	11.81
pH value	...	...	7.9	...	7.38
Dissolved CO <sub>2</sub>	...	...	1.9	...	5.0
Nitrite	...	...	0.0004	...	0.0001

#### GENERAL INFORMATION.

1. New mains laid in 1952—		<i>Yards</i>
Town Water Mains	...	2196
River Water Mains	...	1207

2. Amount of Water pumped in 1952 :—

<i>Corporation Source.</i>			<i>Gallons.</i>
From	Campion Terrace	...	124,960,000
,,	Lillington	...	109,807,000
,,	Brewery Well	...	58,535,000
,,	Leicester Lane	...	27,321,000
,,	River (unfiltered)	...	77,414,000
,,	River (filtered)	...	193,222,000

<i>Outside Sources.</i>			<i>Gallons.</i>
Taken from	Warwick R.D.C.	...	Nil.
Water supplied to	Warwick R.D.C.		10,374,000

3. Daily consumption of Town Water per head	39.42	galls
River Water supplied to Residents per head	1.79	,,
River Water supplied annually to Rail- way Companies	...	49,636,000 ,,

*Swimming Baths.*—On May 23rd, 1949, the small swimming bath was taken over for medical purposes, so that the figures here given apply, in the main, to the large bath. The total number of those using the baths during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1952, was 109,441. The average attendance per week during the Summer season (May to September) was 3,562, and during the Winter season 1,034. These figures represent a substantial increase in use.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations of the swimming bath water were made during the year and proved satisfactory. Improvements were made to the purification plant of the medical baths and a circulation system was adopted in place of hand dosage. This led to more even results without the necessity for addition of chlorine in quantities sufficient to cause discomfort to bathers.

*Rivers.*—Sources of pollution both inside and outside the Borough were kept under observation: Action was required, in December, 1952, following the death of fish due to a discharge via the sewers of commercial cyanide waste into the Tach Brook. The effects of this pollution were traced as far down-stream as the Avon at Barford but no drinking supply was affected thereby.

*Drainage and Sewage.*—Extensive repairs and lining of the sewers below the Parade have been carried out. The new village sewerage scheme for Cubbington also came into operation: this provides for the pumping of crude sewage over high ground at Windmill Corner and its injection into the Corporation's main sewers whence it is conveyed to the disposal plant. During the year, the general character of the sewage effluent was satisfactory.

*Closet accommodation.*—With the exception of a few cottages at Lillington and Milverton the houses throughout the town are equipped with water closets.

*Scavenging.*—Approximately 10,525 tons of refuse were collected and received at the Destructor, as compared with 10,506 the previous year.

Difficulty now arises at times in disposal of refuse without deposit of dust from the chimney as the popularity of slow combustion grates and stoves greatly increases the fine ash content of the mixed refuse.



## F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

*Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1945*

		Smallpox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1945	...	—	11	57	—	25	—	2
1946	...	—	12	41	1	53	—	6
1947	...	—	24	25	1	25	—	16
1948	...	—	2	28	—	14	—	3
1949	...	—	2	19	—	16	—	5
1950	...	—	2	14	—	12	5	5
1951	...	—	1	9	—	27	1	36
1952	...	—	—	46	—	11	1	35

*Diphtheria.*—No case of Diphtheria was notified during the year.

The number of children immunised was only about four-fifths of the previous year's total. Only about 40 per cent. of children appear to have been immunised before their first birthday which is about half of the safe minimum figure.

The details were as follows :—

	1952	1951
Children under 5 years ...	384	490
Children 5 to 14 years ...	71	65
Children given booster doses	506	609

*Scarlet Fever.*—This disease was prevalent and of a mild type and probably other cases occurred which were not reported as such. Home Isolation was not found to be satisfactory in about a fifth of the cases investigated and no doubt the failure to segregate infective children properly helped to produce the highest annual total since 1945. It is realised of course that housing conditions do not always permit of such children being nursed under ideal conditions : on the other hand it was clear in some cases that parents were making no real attempt to prevent unnecessary contact with other children. This is perhaps the inevitable result of the new fashion of treating scarlet fever at home instead of in isolation hospitals. For example in 1945 when there were 57 cases 39 of them (or 68 per cent.) were admitted to Heathcote Isolation Hospital. This year only 5 out of the 46 cases were removed to hospital.



*Other Diseases.*—During 1952 the County Council introduced a scheme of immunizing children under school age against Whooping Cough. This is now perhaps the most dangerous epidemic disease of childhood and the results of the new scheme will be watched with interest. Mothers are keenly interested and 71 children were submitted for inoculation although the work only began late in the year.

The high level of Puerperal Pyrexia notifications is due to two facts. One is that the new regulations give a much more stringent definition than formerly and the other that the Warneford Hospital Maternity Unit receives complicated maternity cases from an area much wider than the Borough itself.

### TUBERCULOSIS

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ...	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5-10 ...	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
10-15 ...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-20 ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25 ...	3	6	—	2	—	—	—	—
25-35 ...	5	6	—	—	—	1	—	—
35-45 ...	3	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 ...	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 & upwards	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	20	23	3	7	3	1	—	—

26 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted for treatment at a Sanatorium, and 21 were discharged.

*Tuberculosis.*—With the single exception of 1947 the past year's total of cases notified was the highest for over twenty years. This is attributed to more intensive methods of diagnosis and contact tracing and to the greater readiness of the public to submit themselves to examination. At one time fear of the consequences, both physical and financial,

undoubtedly made many people loth to seek examination in good time. Health Education of the public together with improved benefits for patients and better methods both of treatment and diagnosis are now bearing fruit as will be seen from the total of deaths which is the lowest recorded in the past two decades. This is a striking improvement upon the 1951 Tuberculosis mortality rate for the Borough which was exceeded by only three other districts in the whole of the administrative County.

### **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948**

This Act provides inter alia for assistance to be given by the National Assistance Board to persons in need, for the provision of accommodation and welfare services by County Councils and for the registration of homes for disabled persons and the aged. Section 47 of this Act was designed to secure necessary care and attention for persons who—

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

If the Medical Officer of Health gives a written certificate in the prescribed form, the local authority may apply to a court, having jurisdiction for an order to remove the person to a suitable and convenient place e.g. hospital. Seven days clear notice must be given of the intended application and it must also be given to the person managing the premises. The order, if granted, may authorize a person's detention for a period not exceeding three months. A later amendment provides that upon the written report of the medical officer of health and another medical practitioner, the case may in emergency be heard before the court or a single magistrate without the giving of seven days clear notice. An order granted in this way will have effect only for a short period. The council has authorised me to act in accordance with the aforesaid procedure.

During May, 1952 visits were paid to an old man, the owner-occupier of a substantial dwelling house. He had been confined to his room through illness and his condition had caused both anxiety and annoyance to his sub-tenants. After much persuasion he agreed to call in his doctor and subsequently he was treated with the help of the district nurse for acute Bronchitis. He was dirty and the room was cold, comfortless and so full of litter that it was impossible to control the activity of the numerous fleas.

Accordingly as soon as he was strong enough to travel an application was made to the Magistrates' Court in accordance with Section 47 of the Act and an Order was obtained authorising his removal to Warwick Hospital. After a stay of several weeks there, during which time he seemed to be improving, he collapsed and died suddenly. It was some time before any relatives could be traced and the Town Clerk and Sanitary Inspector therefore had to deal with the immediate problems affecting the estate.

Observation visits were also paid to two elderly ladies whose alleged intemperate habits had led them into a pitiable state of filth and distress. One was persuaded to give up the tenancy of her house and enter Part III accommodation where she very rapidly improved in health. The other obstinately refused to change her ways of life and service of a statutory notice for nuisance (affecting the health of sub-tenants) alone secured the cleansing of her rooms. Worn-out and verminous bedding was removed for destruction, this having become possible through the kind gift of serviceable bedding by a voluntary women's organisation in the town.

## TUBERCULOSIS

		1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Cases	...	27	26	32	40	40	28	23
Deaths	...	8	17	9	9	15	8	5
		1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Cases	...	43	26	40	45	43	42	38
Deaths	...	10	23	22	17	22	19	11
		1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	
Cases	...	65	25	46	42	30	53	
Deaths	...	24	26	18	6	12	4	

## CANCER

The deaths ascribed to malignant disease were classified in age groups as follows :—

Age Group.		Male.		Female.		Total.
Under 50	...	2	...	6	...	8
50-60	...	5	...	8	...	13
60-70	...	18	...	11	...	29
70-80	...	8	...	16	...	24
80 and over	...	6	...	11	...	17
		39		52		91

About 15 per cent. of all deaths were due to this cause.

For the past ten years cancer deaths have been as follows :—

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Total	75	60	66	75	83	88	82
Death Rate } per 1,000 }	2.08	1.69	1.87	2.15	2.36	2.42	2.26
	1950	1951	1952				
Total	75	60	91				
Death Rate } per 1,000 }	2.06	1.64	2.5				



## MORTUARY

This was provided for the needs of the Borough but in time its use has extended until now it is used both for the reception of bodies and for the performance of coroner's post-mortem examinations, from a wide area in Central and South Warwickshire. As a result the facilities were strained and it was necessary to buy a new trolley and some extra equipment. During the year 104 bodies were received and 90 post-mortem examinations carried out.

## FOOD AND DRUGS

Last year the results of ice cream sampling with 27 per cent. of reports in the lower grades (i.e. 3 or 4) caused some anxiety since a comparable borough in Warwickshire can obtain over 90 per cent. in the first two grades. This year's figures give even less satisfaction since the percentage of samples in Grades 3 and 4 has risen from 27 per cent. to 37.5 per cent. with correspondingly less in grades 1 and 2 and so regarded as of good quality. Reliance is not placed in the results of a single sample and one must be cautious in drawing conclusions from small numbers especially as the frequency of sampling will be greater where poor results have previously been obtained. Last year it seemed that poorer results were obtained from locally manufactured ice cream than that coming into the borough from elsewhere but the figures were not statistically significant. This year 48 samples taken have been divided equally between the local and the imported product with the following results :—

Grading of Samples	% Manufactured in the Borough	No.	% Manufactured outside the Borough	No.
Grades 1 or 2	46	11	84	19
Grade 3	38	9	13	4
Grade 4	15	4	3	1

These figures, while open to criticism, are enough to show that there is room for improvement in locally made ice-cream. If another borough using the same laboratory can show less than 10 per cent. of samples in the lower grades there seems no good reason why comparable results should



not be found with ice-cream sold in Leamington Spa. Improved equipment for the conveyance of iced samples will be put into service next year and this will allow of the taking of extra samples during the summer period and assure that the grading of samples rests solely upon their merits and purity.

Substantial quantities of assorted foodstuffs have again been condemned by food inspectors as unsound and unfit for human consumption. Among the samples submitted for inspection was a consignment of tinned South African grapefruit where the fruit itself looked, smelt and tasted normal but the liquid had a bitter taste and contained numerous firm white granules. The advice was obtained of the Fruit and Vegetable Preservation Research Station at Campden and the foreign substance was identified as crystals of Naringin, a bitter substance normally present in grapefruit and harmless though not of a pleasant flavour. This natural substance appears to increase when the raw fruit is stored for sometimes in warm conditions. This was the cause of the bitter taste and unusual appearance of the sample and, while the goods were not unsound or dangerous and so not condemned, they would not have been easily saleable.

Close attention was paid to the operation of a holder type milk pasteurization plant and, following a number of visits and advice from your officers, the proprietor decided to order and instal in its place a H.T.S.T. plant of larger work capacity and modern design. This will make the equipment up to a high standard and should result in a better sampling record.

### **REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTORS for the Year ending 31st December, 1952**

Number of Complaints received, 676.

Number of Notices served :—Formal, 16 ; Informal, 243.

Number of Notices complied with, 191.

### **SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK EXECUTED**

Visits in relation to Notifiable Infectious Diseases	...	66
Visits in Relation to Non-Notifiable Diseases	...	3
Rooms fumigated	...	33
Rooms disinfested	...	126
Steam disinfections	...	41
Books disinfected	...	54

Inspections of Factories (including Bakehouses, etc.)	55
„ Food Shops and Premises ... ..	407
„ Dairies ... ..	79
„ Common Lodging House ... ..	34
„ Canal Boats ... ..	2
Smoke Observations ... ..	50
Housing Allocation Enquiries ... ..	439
Visits in Relation to Merchandise Marks Act ... ..	30
Rodent Control Visits ... ..	79
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ...	111
Samples of Ice Cream taken for Bacteriological Examination ... ..	48
Samples of Milk (Special Designations) ... ..	146
Number of Chemical Tests applied to drains ... ..	7
Number of Smoke Tests applied to drains ... ..	9
DWELLING HOUSES	
Roofs repaired (house, scullery, W.C., etc.) ...	80
Floors repaired ... ..	29
Wall and ceiling plaster made good or renewed (rooms) ... ..	176
Rooms re-decorated or limewashed ... ..	61
Windows repaired and/or made to open ... ..	26
Sashcords renewed ... ..	14
Firegrates repaired or reset ... ..	8
Stairs repaired ... ..	2
Flues to chimneys repaired ... ..	3
Walls re-pointed ... ..	28
Doors repaired or renewed ... ..	11
WASH-HOUSES AND SCULLERIES	
Coppers repaired ... ..	5
Sink waste-pipes repaired or renewed ... ..	9
Paving of yards and passages repaired or renewed	3
New sinks provided ... ..	6
DRAINS AND WATER CLOSETS, ETC.	
Obstructed drains cleansed ... ..	30
Drains repaired or reconstructed ... ..	17
Broken or foul W.C. pans renewed ... ..	8
W.C.s repaired or rebuilt ... ..	25
New W.C.s built ... ..	1
W.C. pans cleansed ... ..	5
W.C.s provided with new flushing apparatus ...	9
Flushing Apparatus repaired or renewed ... ..	17
Additional gullies provided ... ..	6
Rain-water spouting repaired or renewed ... ..	40

**REFUSE ACCOMMODATION**

Number of new dustbins provided	...	...	10
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**OTHER NUISANCES**

Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	7
Smoke nuisances abated	...	...	2
Nuisances from Animals abated	...	...	4
Premises cleansed	...	...	4

**CANAL BOATS**

No. of Boats on Register on December 31st, 1952	...	Nil
No. of Boats inspected during 1952	...	5
No. of Boats infringing Acts and Regulations	...	Nil
No. of persons for whom Cabins were Registered	...	14½
Details of occupation—Male adults	...	6
„ „ Female adults	...	3
„ „ Children of school age	...	Nil

**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1951**

The survey of premises in the Borough was continued during the year and a total of 1,652 properties were inspected.

Infestations treated during the year were as follows :—

Private dwellings	...	76
Business premises	...	3
Corporation properties	...	5

The sewers received two maintenance treatments in which 259 manholes were baited in the first instance and 316 manholes in the second.

**HOUSING, 1952**

The usual Table has been completed and is being kept for reference.

Number of houses built in the town during 1952 :—

(a) By the Local Authority	...	262
(b) By private enterprise	...	32

The number of houses owned by the Corporation is 1608

„ „ „ Prefabricated Bungalows is ... 113

Houses converted into two or more houses, or flats :—

Originally 12 houses, now 27 flats.



**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938**  
**FOOD STANDARDS (GENERAL PROVISIONS) ORDER,**  
**1944**

	Formal	Informal	Totals
Baking Powder ...	—	2	2
Butter ...	—	8	8
Cheese ...	—	8	8
Cheese Cake Mixture	—	1	1
Cheese (Yoghurt)	—	1	1
Coffee ...	—	5	5
Cooking Fat ...	—	8	8
Flour (Cake) ...	—	1	1
Ice Cream ...	—	8	8
Milk ...	42	—	42
Margarine ...	—	8	8
Pudding Mixture	—	1	1
Sausage ...	4	11	15
Tomato Ketchup	—	2	2
Vinegar ...	—	1	1
	<hr/> 46 <hr/>	<hr/> 65 <hr/>	<hr/> 111 <hr/>

With the exception of 6 samples of Sausages, 1 sample of Ice Cream and 3 samples of Milk the rest of the samples were found to be genuine. Proceedings were taken against one vendor and a fine was imposed. Other vendors were cautioned.

The average fat content of Ice Cream was 10.48 per cent. and ranged between 11.6 and 8.5 per cent.

**MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS)**  
**REGULATIONS, 1949**

Licences issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 :—

	Licences
Dealers (Pasteurisers) ...	2
Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk ...	3
Dealers' Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	16
„ „ for Pasteurised Milk ...	19
„ „ for Accredited Milk ...	—



**Results of Samples taken under the  
Milk (Special Designations) Regulations**

Class of Milk	No. of Samples	Appropriate Tests	No. of Passed	Samples Failed
Pasteurised	59	Phosphatase	57	2
		Methylene Blue	44	3 & 12*
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	52	Phosphatase	45	7
		Methylene Blue	31	4 & 17*
Accredited	4	Methylene Blue	3	1
Tuberculin Tested	3	Methylene Blue	1	2

\* Tests void on account of temperature.

Results of the Bacteriological Examination of Ice Cream Samples :—

Number of Samples in Grade 1	...	...	13
„ „ „ „ 2	...	...	17
„ „ „ „ 3	...	...	12
„ „ „ „ 4	...	...	6
			—
	TOTAL	...	48
			—

**UN SOUND FOOD**

List of foodstuffs destroyed or otherwise disposed of, e.g., for animal feeding stuffs, after examination had shown that they were unfit for human consumption :—

Miscellaneous tinned foodstuffs	3,386	tins
„ bottled „ ...	183	jars
„ packeted „ ...	98	pkts.
Biscuits ... ..	37	lbs.
Bacon ... ..	54	lbs.
Cakes ... ..	12	
Cereals ... ..	230	lbs.

Cheese	...	...	...	...	73½ lbs.
Cod Fillets	...	...	...	...	77 lbs.
Cod Roes	...	...	...	...	105 lbs.
Eggs	...	...	...	...	28
Faggots	...	...	...	...	123 doz.
Fats	...	...	...	...	56 lbs.
Frozen Fruits	...	...	...	...	36 doz.
Haddock	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.
Jellies	...	...	...	...	20 pkts.
Lemon Sole	...	...	...	...	63 lbs.
Margarine	...	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	...	6½ lbs.
Prunes	...	...	...	...	30 lbs.
Rice	...	...	...	...	112 lbs.
Salmon	...	...	...	...	3¾ lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	...	215 lbs.
Sultanas	...	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Sweets	...	...	...	...	8½ lbs.

### **RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951**

This Act came into operation on November 1st, 1951. All premises in the Borough known to be using these materials were visited in 1951, but none required to be registered under the provisions of the Act and no applications for registration were received during 1952.

### **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 Section 50**

One stillborn child was buried as provided for by the Act, in circumstances where no liable person could be found willing or able, to undertake this responsibility.

### **MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926**

Eighty-three shops were visited. 15 shop-keepers were cautioned for failing to mark imported tomatoes with a proper indication of their origin.

**SHOPS ACT, 1950**

Summary of observations made in connection with the Closing of Shops :—

Sunday Trading	...	...	...	17
Half Day Closing	...	...	...	29
Evening Hours	...	...	...	23

Observations made for other purposes of the Shops Act, 1950 :—

Exhibition of Notices, etc.	...	...	25
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Contraventions of the Act noted and dealt with by letter :—

Failing to close shop at the prescribed hour	...	...	...	...	3
Failing to exhibit the requisite notices					5
Failing to obtain certificate of exemption in connection with holding an exhibition	...	...	...	...	1

**METEOROLOGICAL REPORT, 1950**

The recording of Meteorological observations in the Borough has been continued throughout the year.

I am indebted to Mr. A. H. Stalworth for the following statistics which are the result of his observations.

METEOROLOGICAL AVERAGES OF  
LEAMINGTON SPA.

For the 72 Years, 1881-1952						For the 39 years, 1912 to 1950.
Month.	Means of Barom. 9 a.m.	Air Temperature.		Rainfall.		Sunshine
		Max.	Min.	Inches.	Days.	Hours.
January ...	29.93	44.5	34.2	2.18	16	41.4
February	29.96	45.1	34.4	1.63	13	59.8
March ...	29.96	50.1	36.2	1.69	14	101.4
April ...	29.95	54.6	39.1	1.91	15	134.5
May ...	29.97	62.8	44.7	2.04	13	179.5
June ...	30.03	67.8	49.7	1.59	12	189.7
July ...	29.95	70.3	53.5	2.29	14	168.7
August ...	29.88	69.6	52.9	2.35	14	163.2
September	29.99	64.7	48.9	2.08	12	122.7
October ...	29.98	57.5	42.6	2.29	15	92.8
November	29.89	48.9	37.6	2.37	15	51.5
December	29.93	45.7	36.0	2.21	17	35.9
Means and Totals ...	29.95	56.8	42.5	24.63	170	1341.1



TABLE OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, LEAMINGTON SPA, 1952.

Latitude 52° 18' N. Longitude 1° 30' W.

Month.	Means of Barom. 9 a.m.	AIR TEMPERATURES.										EARTH TEMPERATURES			Direc- tion of the pre- vail- ing Wind	Rainfall.	
		Means.			Absolute Temperatures.				At 1 foot	At 2 feet	At 4 feet	Inches	Days				
		9 a.m.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Date	Min.	Date									
January ...	29.85	36.6	42.5	32.7	53	on 10th & 15th	20	on 27th	37.1	...	46.1	1.73	13				
February ...	30.18	37.2	44.5	32.0	54	„ 28th	25	„ 5th	35.7	...	43.6	0.46	5				
March ...	29.85	45.0	51.6	38.6	58	„ 8. 18, 20 & 24th	29	„ 15th & 27th	45.3	...	46.3	2.00	15				
April ...	29.98	50.4	60.1	41.4	74	„ 30th	28	„ 3rd	53.1	...	48.7	1.89	13				
May ...	30.03	57.5	65.8	48.7	82	„ 18th	41	„ 7th & 13th	59.7	...	53.6	2.75	17				
June ...	30.03	59.9	67.5	50.0	81	„ 28th & 30th	40	„ 16th	62.7	...	56.4	1.36	14				
July ...	30.10	64.5	72.6	55.0	87	„ 1st	45	„ 16th	68.5	...	58.1	0.30	5				
August ...	29.85	62.1	70.1	54.2	75	„ 12th & 29th	45	„ 21st	65.2	...	59.6	4.48	17				
September	29.92	53.8	60.3	44.3	72	„ 1st	35	„ 18th & 28th	56.2	...	58.5	0.86	18				
October ...	29.85	47.9	55.1	40.9	61	„ 28th	28	„ 11th & 12th	48.6	...	55.5	3.43	15				
November...	29.95	39.3	44.9	34.6	56	„ 2nd & 10th	20	„ 25th	41.6	...	52.7	2.35	15				
December ...	29.88	36.1	42.8	31.7	52	„ 23rd	24	„ 16th	35.7	...	48.8	2.26	19				
Totals ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Means ...	29.95	49.2	56.5	42.0	...	...	...	...	50.8	...	52.3	23.87	166				

TABLE II.

BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1952 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Crude Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1945	34,200	650	19.0	23	35	459	13.4
1946	34,720	662	19.1	24	36	477	13.7
1947	35,170	687	19.5	18	26	484	13.5
1948	36,210	661	13.3	19	29	461	12.7
1949	36,020	648	18.0	24	37	488	13.5
1950	36,370	581	16.0	17	29.3	463	12.7
1951	36,520	571	15.7	14	24.5	507	13.9
1952	36,730	601	16.4	13	21.6	461	12.5

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1952.  
ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1952.  
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.				Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.	
		Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	
England and Wales	...	15.3	0.35	11.3	27.6
160 Great Towns, including London		16.9	0.43	12.1	31.2
160 Smaller Towns	...	15.5	0.36	11.2	25.8
London	...	17.6	0.34	12.6	23.8

TABLE III.

## BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR  
1952.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.									Total cases removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.									
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.			
Small-pox ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Plague ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup) ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Erysipelas ... ..	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever ... ..	46	.....	6	40	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....
Typhus Fever ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Enteric Fever ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pneumonia ... ..	11	.....	.....	1	.....	2	3	5	.....	.....	36
Malaria ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	35	.....	.....	.....	13	22	.....	.....	.....	35	.....
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Whooping Cough ... ..	40	3	18	19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles ... ..	107	10	54	43	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	43	.....	1	4	11	21	5	1	26	4	.....
Other forms of Tuberculosis	10	.....	2	3	2	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....
Food Poisoning ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals ... ..	295	13	81	110	27	45	9	10	67	40	.....



TABLE IV.  
BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.  
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1952

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
1 Tuberculosis (respiratory) ... ..	3	1
2 Tuberculosis (other) ... ..	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease ... ..	—	1
4 Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
5 Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
8 Measles ... ..	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	4	7
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	2
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	16
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	6
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	23	21
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	1	2
16 Diabetes ... ..	1	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	18	36
18 Coronary disease, angina ... ..	42	24
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	9
20 Other heart disease ... ..	35	54
21 Other circulatory disease ... ..	8	9
22 Influenza ... ..	—	1
23 Pneumonia ... ..	14	12
24 Bronchitis ... ..	11	3
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	3	1
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	6	2
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	1
28 Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	3	3
29 Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	4	—
30 Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion ...	—	1
31 Congenital malformations ... ..	3	1
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	23
33 Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	1	1
34 All other accidents ... ..	3	6
35 Suicide ... ..	3	1
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All Causes ... ..	216	245



